

Message Text

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16

ACTION ORM-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-14 ISO-00 SR-02 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01 /131 W

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R 282109Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9190

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3802

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: VISIT OF GILBERT JAEGER, PROGRAM DIRECTOR, UNHCR

1. SUMMARY: UNHCR OFFICIAL DESCRIBES STATUS OF HIGH COMMISSIONER'S WORK RE CHILE, NOTING OFFICE IS ENGAGED IN FAMILY REUNION PLAN FOR CHILEAN REFUGEES ABROAD. END SUMMARY.
2. GILBERT JAEGER, OF OFFICE OF UN HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES, CALLED ON ME JUNE 28, AT END OF THREE-DAY STAY IN SANTIAGO DURING WHICH HE SAW FONMIN HUERTA, CARDINAL SILVA, AND LUTHERAN BISHOP FRANZ, CHAIRMAN OF LOCAL REFUGEE AID COMMITTEE.
3. JAEGER STATED UNHCR INTERESTED IN TWO TYPES OF PROBLEMS IN CHILE. FIRST, THERE WERE STILL A FEW FOREIGN REFUGEES LEFT IN CHILE WHO COULD NOT RETURN TO THEIR OWN COUNTRIES -- PERHAPS 150 -- WITH ADDITIONAL ONES SURFACING FROM TIME TO TIME. SECOND, THERE WERE 6,000 TO 7,000 LOCALLY RESIDENT MEMBERS OF FAMILIES OF CHILEANS WHO AS REFUGEES WERE RECEIVING UNHCR AID ABROAD. UNHCR WAS ENGAGED IN A FAMILY REUNION PROGRAM, VERY UNUSUAL FOR IT BUT JUSTIFIED ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS.

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4. JAEGER HAS JUST FINISHED ONE-WEEK STAY IN BUENOS AIRES, DEALING WITH PROBLEMS PRESENTED BY AN ESTIMATED 10,000 CHILEANS NOW RESIDENT IN ARGENTINA. ABOUT HALF OF THESE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH UNHCR FOR ASSISTANCE, AND JAEGER EXPECTS MOST OF REMAINDER WILL EVENTUALLY TURN UP.

5. JAEGER DEPARTING JUNE 28 FOR LIMA. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS PERUVIAN "CLOSING OF BORDER" TO CHILEANS. ON INQUIRY, HE EXPLAINED THAT HE DID NOT MEAN THIS LITERALLY: CHILEAN TOURISTS OR OTHERS WITH GUARANTEED ONWARD DESTINATIONS HAD NO DIFFICULTIES, BUT PERUVIANS WERE UNWILLING TO ALLOW ANY MORE CHILEANS TO USE PERU AS A SITE OF REFUGE.

6. JAEGER VERY TENTATIVELY RAISED POSSIBILITY OF SOME USG ACTION WHICH WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR FOREIGN REFUGEES IN CHILE TO BE ADMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES, OR, MORE IMPORTANT AT THIS POINT, FOR CHILEANS IN DANGER OF POLITICAL PERSECUTION TO OBTAIN ADMITTANCE TO US. I EXPLAINED CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED BY LAW AND REGULATION ON OUR ACTIONS IN THIS REGARD AND DID NOT ENCOURAGE HIM TO BELIEVE THAT SITUATION COULD BE MATERIALLY CHANGED.

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